Amendments to the claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c):

COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

11. (Previously presented) A process for thermal splicing optical fibers comprising:

directing a laser beam to an impingement point on the optical fibers; and

moving the laser beam according to a frequency such that a position of the impingement point is periodically moved in the longitudinal direction of the optical fibers in a predetermined area around a splicing point of the optical fibers;

wherein the frequency of the movement of the laser is such that the duration of one period of the position of the impingement point is shorter than the thermal time constant of the optical fibers, and wherein the speed of the movement of the impingement point is changed for modulation of the movement of the impingement point with a predetermined frequency of the movement of the laser beam.

12. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 11, wherein the movement of the impingement point and the intensity of the laser beam are modulated to provide an optimized output profile onto the optical fibers.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 12, wherein the output of a laser is changed for the modulation of the intensity of the laser beam.

15. (Previously presented) A process according to claim12, wherein the modulation of the intensity of the laser beam is synchronized with the modulation of the movement of the impingement point.

16. (Currently amended) A device for thermal splicing of optical fibers with a laser, the device comprising:

at least one lens for focusing at least one laser beam from the laser;

at least one optical component for directing the at least one laser beam onto the optical fibers to be spliced; and

a driver unit associated with the at least one optical component such that a position of an impingement point of the laser beam onto the optical fibers to be spliced is moved periodically in the longitudinal direction of the optical fibers, wherein the laser has an associated laser control unit, in which the intensity of the laser beam ~~in~~ is modulated in conjunction with the movement of the optical component.

17. (Previously presented) A device according to claim16, further comprising a driver control unit for controlling the driver unit associated with the optical component to manipulate the speed of the movement of the impingement point.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 17, wherein the driver control unit and the laser control unit are connected to a central control unit.